

**SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)  
PRIORITY PLAN UPDATE  
September 2004 to October 2006**

February 9, 2005

**I. COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN (CERP)**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Build CERP projects through an accelerated process.

**GOAL A:** Help ensure that the CERP and ongoing Feasibility Studies are successful in restoring the Everglades ecosystem and meeting the other water related needs of the South Florida region

**Objectives:**

1. Receive briefings about basis of design for each accelerated project.
2. Receive briefings about 30 percent design for each accelerated project.
3. Review progress to streamline Project Implementation Reports for each accelerated project.
4. Review strategies and plans that identify and protect water for natural systems while meeting the other water related needs of the region.
5. Review and provide comments on Guidance Memorandums, CERP Interim Goals and Targets and the Initial CERP Update.
6. Review and provide comments regarding CERP Performance Measures as proposed by RECOVER.
7. Review strategies to implement non-accelerated CERP projects.
8. Review progress of ongoing feasibility studies and strategies to implement feasibility study recommendations.

**GOAL B:** Secure/acquire CERP Lands.

**Objective:** Review status and strategies for acquiring CERP lands, including the use of less-than-fee simple acquisition strategies.

**Outcomes:**

1. CERP Issues Workshops will be held monthly, or more frequently as needed. Presentations will be made to WRAC for consideration, and WRAC will provide comments to the SFWMD Governing Board.
2. Governing Board Considers Comments.

**II. REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN UPDATES**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Implement water supply plan recommendations.

**GOAL A:** Review and provide comments on draft regional water supply plan updates to help ensure the plans address adequate water supply for the environment and urban and agricultural water users.

**Objectives:**

1. Conduct Regional Water Supply Plan Update Issues Workshops to review and comment on information regarding existing water resources, projected needs and demands, performance measures for natural systems and consumptive uses, water resource and water development projects, recommendations, and other appropriate information.
2. Make comments to the WRAC, and from the WRAC to the Governing Board, about each of the Regional Water Supply Plan Updates.
3. Monitor, through periodic presentations, the implementation of strategies and recommendations in the Regional Water Supply Plans.

**Outcomes:**

1. Regional Water Supply Plan Update Issues Workshops for the Kissimmee Basin, Lower East Coast and Lower West Coast regions will be held throughout the SFWMD to carry out the above objectives.
2. The WRAC will be provided periodic updates about the progress made in the issues workshops, and the draft plan updates will be presented to the WRAC for review and comment.
3. The WRAC will make appropriate comments about each plan update to the SFWMD Governing Board.
4. Governing Board considers WRAC comments.

**Goal B:** Participate in the development process for rules to implement initial reservations of water for protection of fish and wildlife.

**Objective:**

Conduct issue workshops to provide input on the development of initial water reservations and rules to implement those requirements.

**Outcome:** Adoption of initial water reservations rules.

### **III. LAKE OKEECHOBEE PROTECTION PLAN AND WATER LEVEL REGULATION SCHEDULE**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Reduce Phosphorous inputs to Lake Okeechobee.

**GOAL A:** Help ensure reduction of Lake Okeechobee phosphorous levels through successful implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan.

**Objectives:**

1. Review and provide input to improve implementation of the Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan.

2. Review proposed Lake Okeechobee amendments to Works of the District Rule, and provide comments to the Governing Board.
3. Review plans to protect and restore wetlands that have the potential to increase water storage, improve water quality, and provide wildlife habitat in the Kissimmee and Lake Okeechobee watersheds.

**GOAL B:** Refine and improve the Lake Okeechobee WSE Water Level Regulation Schedule.

**Objectives:**

1. Review modeling results and other scientific information regarding WSE Schedule alternatives.
2. Review proposed refinements to the WSE Schedule and make appropriate comments to improve the water level regulation schedule.
3. Review and provide recommendations about proposed revisions to the Supply Side Management plan, or other appropriate plan, including remedies to alleviate water supply shortages in dry periods, such as the construction of forward pumps.

**Outcomes:**

1. WRAC Issues Workshops to consider Lake Okeechobee issues will be held at least quarterly.
2. Presentations to the WRAC will be made at least semi-annually.
3. The WRAC will provide appropriate comments to the SFWMD Governing Board.

#### **IV. WATER QUALITY**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Achieve Everglades water quality standards.

**GOAL:** Review strategies to improve implementation of the SFWMD Long Term Plan to Improve Water Quality, completion of construction, enhancement and operation of the Stormwater Treatment Areas and other relevant projects, including the Everglades Stormwater Program.

**Objective:**

Based upon semi-annual presentations to the WRAC, make appropriate comments to the SFWMD Governing Board about achieving Everglades water quality standards.

#### **V. KISSIMMEE RESTORATION**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Acquire land for Kissimmee River Restoration.

**GOAL:** Review strategies to improve the health and sustainability of the Kissimmee River and headwaters, while balancing and minimizing potential adverse impacts to the Upper and Lower Kissimmee Basins, Lake Okeechobee, and estuaries.

**Objective:**

Through periodic WRAC Issues Workshops and WRAC presentations, make appropriate comments to the SFWMD Governing Board about Kissimmee Basin water resource issues, including those related to successful implementation of the Kissimmee River Restoration and the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Long Term Management Plan.

**Outcomes:**

WRAC Issues Workshops, quarterly presentations to the WRAC on progress, WRAC input to SFWMD Governing Board and Governing Board consideration of comments.

**VI. RECREATIONAL ACCESS AND PUBLIC USE OF SFWMD LANDS:**

**SFWMD Strategic Priority:** Restore conservation and preservation lands to a natural condition, provide compatible public access, and efficiently manage project lands.

**GOAL B:** Provide appropriate recreational access and public use opportunities for SFWMD-owned lands consistent with SFWMD policy and the purpose for which lands have been acquired.

**Objective:**

Through periodic WRAC issues workshops and presentations, make appropriate comments to the SFWMD Governing Board about successful implementation of SFWMD recreational access and public use policy.